The Indian Poultry Gazette.

*Vol. XVIII. (Price Eight Annas.)* *November 1930.* *(Registered L-1322) No. 11.*

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## EDITORIAL NEWS.

We have very much pleasure in announcing that the All India Poultry Exhibition will be held in the Eden Gardens, Calcutta, the 3rd and 4th January next. Schedules and Entry Forms are now available and can be obtained from our office. We want every keen fancier to send along exhibits and make the show a *real All India.* We hope to have the following gentlemen to do the judging:—Messrs. Slater, Foden (Exhibition and Utility) Mr. Nur-ul Islam, Asil and all Indian Breeds, and Mr. Youd for Pigeons. As late entries will not be accepted will all intending exhibitors make a point of sending their entries in as early as possible, and note the closing date—15th December.

Donations from the Governments have been about the same as in previous years, *viz.*:—Government of Bengal Rs. 200, Bihar and Orissa Rs. 200, His Highness The Nizam Rs. 300, His Excellency The Governor of Assam Rs. 100, (Rs. 800 in all). Mrs. Fawkes has kindly offered Rs. 200 from her grant providing there is enough money to spare after set.ing aside a grant for the Provincial show. Mr. and Mrs. Lacey have also kindly promised Rs. 50. To all of these we beg to tender our sincerest thanks. Even with this amount of cash, there is still a need for us to appeal to everybody for assistance. We hope to make the prize list as attractive as possible more especially to the Amateur fancier.

We would ask all readers to give a careful study to our leading article in this issue. Since holding this office we have continually asked for more support from members. Some always come forward and at the same time send along names of new members. It was our ambition to increase our roll 100% but this has not matured, in fact, this year has seen a startling reduction in numbers. Competitions have been arranged whereby members have received prizes for their efforts, but very few have availed themselves of this method of helping us.

Next month will see the end of our tenure in this capacity, and before handing over we would make this last appeal for better co-operation and support. The Club really cannot advance until there are as many thousands as hundreds now on the club membership roll. Our voice is like that of a small child just learning to talk whereas we should be the commanding factor in the country.

Mr. Foden of Narayangunj has very sportingly consented to relieve us as Honorary Editor, and Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Club. Mr. Foden is known personally to quite a number of us, being a very keen fancier and practical poultry breeder. We wish him the very best of good luck in this undertaking, and trust that members and readers will give him that support which is due him in that great endeavour to further the poultry industry thoughout India.

Will all members and readers kindly note our change of address to 2, Fancy Lane, Calcutta and send correspondence accordingly. Just now we are overloaded with work on the coming show, so would thank everybody to give a little thought when asking trivial questions and being disappointed in not receiving a direct reply.

# THE INDIAN POULTRY CLUB.

## ITS RECONSTRUCTION.

### Propaganda Needed.

From the day of its birth to the present, the career of the Indian Poultry Club has been harried and troublous and its position uncertain.

In its early days circumstances over which the Club had no control have from time to time clogged its wheels, but often, only for a short time, still, with all the changes these circumstances brought about, it is really a wonder that the Club managed to live throught it all; but it did nevertheless, although it suffered considerably as was only to be expected. Its founders had to endure many hindrances, and from those who should have helped to establish it firmly in the hearts and wills of the Fancy in India. Its objects then, as now, were :—

(1) To promote the breeding and exhibiting of Poultry.

(2) To advance and protect the interest of poultry breeders and exhibitors.

(3) To suppress and prevent fraudulent or dishonorable conduct or practices in relation to, or in connection with, the breeding and exhibiting of poultry.

No one could say one single word against those objects. They stand for all that is good and true. Many of its staunch supporters have long since left the country. The Indian Poultry Club still exists. It has never yet in the twenty years of its career received that support and assistance from the Fancy it should have done. Hindrances and lack of support thwarted its efforts to grow in its infant days, and although now of good age, it has never yet recovered from the effects which so seriously hampered its early growth. The Poultry Fancy in those days was not the power it is to-day. Its ramifications were small and insignificant compared with now. The Fancy has grown and developed enormously. The Indian Poultry Club should have done likewise. But it has not. Why?

That is a question which has puzzled many. No one through the years which have elapsed could ever say why the Indian Poultry Club should not succeed. Nor say with any certainty why it has not commanded that loyalty and respect that should have been its portion. Its objects are good. It has had some of the best men in the Fancy in India connected with it, but it has never yet attained the position which it should occupy in the Fancy in India. Why?

Many of its troubles have come from within. There is no doubt that lack of support has seriously hampered the growth of the Club. But the greatest source of all its troubles has ever been its unrepresentative character. It has never held the undivided loyal adherance of the Fancy. Its greatest hold on those whom it should have governed has been through its cups and medals. But such does not command loyalty and respect. Something more is required. Can it be secured? Undoubtedly it can. But it can only come by a thorough reorganisation of the Club and its methods. We hear much of re-consturction these days. The Indian Poultry Club needs it badly. The present constitution of the Club is behind the times. It cannot arouse interest in the Club or its work. It is too far removed from the everyday life of the masses. There is much work waiting to be done. Re-organise it; bring in all those interested in poultry culture from every part of the country, and the Club will then become what it should be—The Poultry Club of India.

We have hundreds possibly thousands, of poultry keepers throughout India who are not aware that such a club exists. True, to look around the country and see how few committees there are not in existence and how little energy is shown in working those which do exist, is calculated to make one feel depressed. The lethargic attitude of Provincial Governments and Directors of Agriculture is truly lamentable. Such a state of things is sufficient to make one despair. But should it? Does it not, contrariwise, call for renewed and greater effort? Sow Propaganda. Select a Propaganda Committee. Send speakers out into the districts and compel all those interested in poultry to come into the fold of the Indian Poultry Club. A few good speakers would soon rouse the enthusiasm of the masses. Local societies must be formed. Local interest can only be kept at fever heat when it is really localised.

(*See on next page*).

## LOOKING ROUND.

The time is at hand when the poultry keeper who is keen on the improvement of his stock should be looking round among the birds with a view to to the final selection of the best to put on one side for his own use. This is only natural, considering the amount of time and thoughtful care he has bestowed on them for many months past.

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Propaganda by speakers, and by the effective and judicious distribution of literature, would soon galvanise the districts and provinces into life and action.

Finance must play a big part in the compaign. The Indian Poultry Club needs funds if it is to do the work it should do, but the subscriptions from a hundred or so members will not provide them. The Club must be strengthened. Every poultry keeper in the country must join the Club. By this means a strong financial reserve would be built up and a working force which would dominate and influence the whole of the Poultry Industry in favour of the Club. Mark it! the word *Industry* is used. The Fancy is only a part of the constituence which the Club should govern to-day. There is a greater part which needs a governing body quite as badly as does the Fancy. What body is there which should and could so well govern as the Indian Poultry Club? None. The Club is here. It has knowledge of men and their methods. It only needs to be re-organised and reconstructed so that it may be able to tackle the problems of to-day in the spirit of to-day, and not in that of the days which are past.

Great has been the advance during recent years, but fresh problems were ever appearing. Vast problems are awaiting solution, and the Club can sometimes see by the light of experience which others could not. Unity of purpose and action should at any sacrifice be attained. No autocrats are needed; the industry must be one vast democracy. In helping others we helped ourselves, and that is the spirit in which to approach all the problems which have to be dealt with. The power of the Club will depend upon the loyalty and co-operation of its members. Where men are all of one mind unity is easy. Poultry keepers throughout the land must be roused to see the need of their joining hands and not working each for himself. Unity is strength.

Propaganda should bring about the state of things herein advocated, and it will be found that once local interests in the Club was aroused by an active campaign, there would be little difficulty in finding men—real live wires—to take office and work for the good of the Club and the industry generally. There are men holding official positions in the Club who are anxious, more than anxious, for the Club to hold the position which it should hold. But they fear to take the initiative. They fear to be thought presumptious. They fear making a false move. In such matters strong men are needed. That is the need of the Indian Poultry Club to-day. It wants a leader. A man not afraid to spend and be spent in the services of the Club; one able to arouse his fellows and thrill them with the enthusiasm which permeates his whole being. Zeal, energy and unlimited organising power are needed to rouse the Poultry Industry to the fact that it needs a governing body; that such a body stands ready to hand, and only needs to be purged of obsolete and effete methods to enable it to guide and guard the interests of its industry in every one of its many phases and spheres. Where is the Man The Poultry Industry could easily be roused and the Indian Poultry Club made a real governing body and a source of continuous strength to all connected with it.

Now is the time. Local interest and enthusiasm needs rousing. Provincial Governments and Directors of Agriculture be made to realise their responsibilities. It means work. But the results will justify all the effort needed to bring them about. Action, not talk is required. Gird on the fighting armour and go out to conquer the industry and bring its legions into the camp of the Indian Poultry Club. Do it now. Seize the opportunity and make it for the good of the Club and the Poultry Industry in India.

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During these past months from chickenhood onwards, the intelligent and observant fancier has kept a close lookout on his birds, and he ought to have noted which were the most promising from a worker's point of view. He should know which are the early birds, the busy food hunters, and also those usually last to go to roost at night time. Those are the ones he may depend upon for his winter eggs. Granted that they are of a good laying strain to begin with, he will not be disappointed if he takes proper care of them throughout the coming seasons. A few points about the best of the flock may be helpful to those who have not already selected the finals for home production. If the birds are not marked by leg-bands, or in any other way, and the points about each cannot be very clearly denoted, a careful study of the whole flock should be made for a few days prior to culling. Notice the following points particularly, and endeavour in some way to distinguish each bird next time you visit them:—

(*a*) Which are the earliest risers.

(*b*) Which are the busiest ever-on-the-move foragers.

(*c*) Which are the last to go to roost at night.

These are three main guides to a healthy and vigorous pullet. There are many other important points, however, which make one still surer of what may be expected during a normal winter season. The eyes, for instance, should have that bright and keen look which belongs only to healthy birds. The legs should be clear and clean, possessing also a metallic lustre. The nails of a hard worker never become long, but are kept down to a convenient length by reason of constant scratching for a living.

The carriage of the bird should be sprightly and business-like, as if the bird herself took a pride in her appearance, and thought she had work to do. A lazy young pullet is not likely to become a hard working hen, unless some drastic change takes place. On handling the birds the first impression which should be given is that of solidness; not fatness of any kind, but just healthy bone and muscle, flesh, and blood, which is kept in the fittest possible condition by an almost limitless amount of energetic life. The breast-bone should not be too long, and the distance between the pelvic bones should allow room for two fingers at least. Great care should be exercised when handling and examining birds, firstly, because they are extremely nervous and easily frightened, and secondly because rough handling may easily injure them internally, and internal injuries are very seldom curable, more especially if the injuries effect the egg organs which is often the case.

The main features of a poor bird which is not likely to be of any real value, and all her life long may be a source of disappointment to her keeper are:—

(*a*) A listless idle gait nearly always indulged in.

(*b*) A dull lazy look about the eyes and face.

(*c*) Coarse looking head with a colourless comb.

(*d*) Long breastbone of coarse, more or less hard bone, which, instead of sloping a little towards the abdomen, tends to turn outwards.

(*e*) A shallow abdomen, indicative of insufficiently developed egg organs for the production of large quantities of eggs.

As soon as it can possibly be done the selected pullets, which should be only those of good size, healthy, mature and vigorous, should be placed in their winter quarters at least a month before they are expected to commence laying, for two season:—(1) In order that they may become accustomed to their quarters, for birds are very susceptible to changes in environment. (2) it is much easier for the keeper to study his birds, watch their ultimate maturity more closely, and, if need be, vary the food to suit changing circumstances. Do not be in too much hurry to get them laying, especially if they are not fully six months old. Any time after that age they may commence; but if they do so before then there is a tendency to reduce the vitality of what should be very good birds, and if the vitality is not bang up to mark, sooner or later the egg basket will suffer. It is far better to wait a week or two longer for those first few longed-for pullet eggs.

(*See on next page*).

THE

# ALL-INDIA POULTRY EXHIBITION

WILL BE HELD

- AT -

# CALCUTTA

(EDEN GARDENS)

## 3rd and 4th January 1931.

**Schedule and entry forms available now.**

*ENTRIES CLOSE 15th December 1930.*
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*Hon. Show Secretary,*
2. FANCY LANE,
CALCUTTA.

# THE VALUE OF PEDIGREE IN BREEDING STOCK.

*By "Progress."*

The longer one breeds poultry, the more is one convinced of the enormous value of pedigree in producing the good points and qualities aimed for in the progeny of any stock one may mate up.

Pedigree means lineage—a record of the bird which in succession has entered into the breeding of the individuals, so that any bird, good, bad or indifferent, may have a pedigree. But to the practical breeder pedigree is associated with the fixation of certain desirous characters in a strain.

It represents to him a powerful hereditary force, showing itself in the individual and in its off spring, and he values a pedigree in proportion, as it shows that the majority of the members of the pedigreed strain possess the qualities desired.

He recognises that pedigree is open to abuse, that the best of pedigrees is worth little without a reasonable degree of individual merit in the pedigreed bird, and that the mere possession of a long-recorded pedigree is no guarantee of purity of breeding or of value, that the most mediocre specimen may number in its lineage many famous winners, but he does not in consequence under-value pedigree; on the contrary, he studies it closely and carefully, for it is his road to uniformity his only means of ascertaining whether the strain has been systematically bred to one specific standard. Granted it has, the longer the better, for the longer a strain has been judiciously bred to one standard or ideal, the nearer it will have approached it, and the closer will the resemblance between the individual members of the strain have become.

Individual merit is not in itself a sure guide to selection, since it may be largely a matter of individual development due to favourable life-conditions. The perfectly developed bird may fail in ancestral possessions and so prove worse than useless for breeding purposes; while the well bred but otherwise ordinary individual will probably breed better stock than itself. Hence the character of the whole strain is of more importance, from the breeder's point of view, than is that of any member of the family.

The value of a pedigree bird lies in its probable possession of the power of impressing its family characters on its offspring; and the worth of a pedigree varies as it shows this power to have been more or less fixed in the strain by continuous selection, and probably by line-breeding.

It is the breeder's guide to selection. From it he gauges the reasonable likelihood of the chosen individual transmitting to its progeny the valued qualities for the perpetuation of which he selects it.

The commonest and most serious mistake made in breeding pedigreed stock is that of selecting from paper pedigrees without due consideration as to individual merit and fitness. Pedigree should be regarded merely as the boundary line within which careful indivdual selection may be made. The breeder, then, must never neglect or under-rate pedigree, but should choose his breeding stock on combined basis of family and individual excellence rather than purely on lineage.

Another mistake commonly made by beginners is that of choosing breeding stock, not for their merit as individuals, but because their pedigree shows them to belong to a well-known and popular strain. As a general rule, once a strain has been famous, the majority of the offspring, irrespective of quality, is sold for breeding purposes and selection practically ceases. Under such conditions the strain naturally and rapidly deteriorates, because it is just as necessary to preserve or augment improved qualities as it was to originate them.

It will thus be seen that pure blood is not necessarily good blood since it may have been spoilt by careless breeding methods. To urge care in the selection of breeding stock under these circumstances is obviously superfluous, more especially as about

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There is a great temptation to let the birds lay when they begin to redden up at about five or five and a half months old, before they are fully grown and fully feathered. After laying her first egg, the pullet ceases to grow any more and as it takes six months at least for a bird to become fully grown and properly feathered, the distinct disadvantage of birds laying at 5 to 5½ months old is at once apparent.

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# THE INFLUENCE OF ENVIRONMENT.

*By "Poultryman."*

The environment of any living thing means the whole of the surroundings and external conditions influencing its development. In the case of domestic stock, these life conditions are largely under our control. We can impose whatever environment is preferred, creating at will conditions conducive to perfect health and development or such as may prove injurious and predispose our birds to disease.

Environment is a factor which is constantly working for the good or for bad. As the sorroundings tend towards bringing about the desired results in environmenal conditions, rapid growth is attained from the very beginning. The growth which a chicken makes is determined, in part, by the vigour and vitality of the parent stock, and the condition of the parent stock, also, in turn, is largely influenced by the surroundings to which they were subjected.

The force of heredity does not soley determine that shape a matured bird will assume. It merely gives the chicken an impetus towards a certain type or character under the developing influences of a certain environment; and if the external conditions acting upon the offspring differ from those to which the parents were subjected, the intial hereditary tendency may be to a greater or less degree diverted by the outside force of the changed external conditions.

An organism repeats the life-cycle of its parents only so long as it has the same environment as its parents had. In other words, valued family form owes its existance to certain conditions, and its permanence is assured only while those conditions endure. If they are altered, the family form may become changed also, and to endeavour to secure continued transmission of qualities not adapted to the surrounding conditions under which stock is kept is to directly oppose Nature, and to so court failure.

We may safely assume that high-bred strains of poultry have enjoyed a good environment, which is to say that they have been well fed, well housed, and generally well managed, so that if we wish their offspring to follow the hereditary impetus and so develop resemblance to their parents, we must provide the same conditions of life, must feed, house, and generally manage them as well or better if possible.

In proportion as our poultry are more highly bred, so the necessity for the very best care increases. Well bred poultry cannot give satisfaction under primitive, unimproved conditions of living; they must at the least be as good as those enjoyed by

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the only one point on which all breeders are agreed is that it is cheapest to breed from the best, and that no false economy should be allowed to stand in the way of procuring the very best stock. But the choice of the best is the very rock on which the hopes of many would-be breeders are wrecked.

The beginner naturally goes whole-heartedly for prize winners; pedigree to him means prize cards. Prizes, pure and simple are certainly a stamp of quality, but of individual rather than family quality, so that prize winning is not a reliable guarantee of value for breeding purposes.

The breeder worthy the name will rely soley neither upon pedigree nor upon individual merit, for he knows that the longest pedigree may have no real value, that the pedigreed but inferior bird may strongly transmit its own imperfections in preference to the desirable qualities of its superior progenitors, and that the most perfect bird may be incapable of impressing its own valued characters on its offspring.

The best pedigree from his point of view is not necessarily the longest, but is that which includes the largest number of excellent individuals of the required type, and in which these superior individuals occur amongst the near, rather than the more remote ancestors; and the best stock for him is that best combining uniform family excellence with high individual merit. Hence, as has been said, he is not unduly influenced by either lineage or individual merit, but considers first, excellence of strain, an then breeds from the best available individuals of the strain, which most consistently produce the type of bird nearest his ideal.

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ALL young birds need care and attention, without which failure is sure to follow. Keep your chicks strong, healthy, growing and thriving by sprinkling a little OVUM in with the soft food. It is astonishing how rapidly young birds so fed will develop and early become a source of profit and pleasure. All poultry keepers should use OVUM when rearing young birds.

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3.

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# FOR SALE.

Ironclad Incubator, as new. 100 egg capacity. Complete with working instructions.

**Rs. 60/- only.**

**(Freight extra.)**

*Apply* :—

**Hon. Editor,**

**INDIAN POULTRY GAZETTE.**

# GRIT

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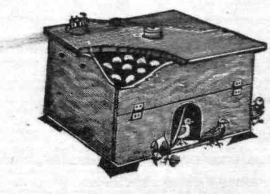

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12.

# RUN YOUR HOT-AIR INCUBATOR THIS WAY.

*By T. H. Branch.*

Unless the machine is new, first thoroughly wash out the inside with soap and hot water, into which has been put some disinfectant, such as Izal, and also wash all the interior parts of the incubator. Then assemble parts, and get the incubator ready for running according to maker's instructions, and light lamp.

Keep lamp alight and run the incubator for three or four days before eggs are put in, in order to dry out the machine and get temperature running smoothly at 103 deg., by regulating the lamp flame so that the capsule inside the incubator is expanded about half an inch high. Keep moisture trays filled with water in egg chamber; if there are no moisture trays, put in a plate or tray of water under egg tray, and keep felts (usually supplied with incubator) in the bottom of machine. The incubator, of course, must be placed in a room where there is no vibration, and which is airy and about 60 deg. to 70 deg. temperature, and on a level, which should be verified by a spirit level.

## MARKING THE EGGS.

A lot depends, of course, on the quality of the stock from which the eggs set are taken. Mark eggs with an O on one side and a X on the opposite. The eggs may be put in with the O side uppermost, when the machine is ready and the temperature correct. It is best to put only 100 or 130 eggs into an incubator made for 150 or 160, other sizes in proportion.

Place a strip of flannel around the outside of the eggs to prevent them from rolling about. It is best to put the eggs in during the morning, when it will be noticed that as soon as they are put in, the temperature in the egg drawer will go down to about 90 deg., but that is correct, and it should not again reach 103 deg. until the eggs have been in from 12 to 18 hours—the heating through should be very gradual.

The lamp should be trimmed daily and filled; after trimming, the temperature should be watched to keep it at 103 deg. to 104 deg. The eggs should be turned every 12 hours, from the O to the X side, and the time taken to turn them should not be more than two or three minutes each time during the first week. Do not turn eggs after trimming the lamp unless the hands have been thoroughly washed first. Turn the eggs from side to side by rolling them together with the fingers, and not turn them end over end. Some machines may, of course, have an automatic turning device, which will enable the owners to turn the eggs much quicker.

## TEST AFTER FIRST WEEK.

After the first week the eggs should be tested for fertility. A few should be tested each time (not more than 20 or so each time), so that the temperature does not go down too much, and each lot tested could be parted off by a strip of cloth or paper from the others until all eggs have been tested. It is best to test about 20 each four hours or so, unless a quicker method is known which will not affect temperature too much. The eggs should be very carefully handled when testing, not to shake or jolt them. I test my eggs by holding each egg before an egg-testing lamp in the darkness.

*(See on next page).*

*(Continued from previous page).*

the superior strains from which the parents were chosen if we are to maintain the superiority to which these strains owe their value.

Summing up the whole question briefly, a mature bird represents the result of the possibilities that were born in it, modified by the influence of environment, that is to say by the opportunities for development afforded by the conditions under which it has grown. A bird may be of the best breeding, but its environment during the growing period may be such that the bird reaches maturity lacking the beauty and other good qualities it should have possessed.

It is worthy of remark that the actual alteration in the form of the offspring due to changed condition of living is not proportionate to the apparent measure of the alteration, and this fact emphasises the necessity of providing the best environment possible, since a seemingly slight adverse change in the management may result in an altogether disproportionately larger loss of quality.

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2.

## FOR BEGINNERS.

*By "Observer".*

### FEEDING.

The immensity of this subject is such as to make me realise my inability ever to deal with it at all conclusively in this column. It is a subject of the very greatest interest, and our knowledge of nutritional problems is still in its first childhood.

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*(Continued from previous page).*

White eggs can be tested after the 6th day of incubation, but brown after the 7th or 8th day, and doubtful ones perhaps later. Fertile eggs will show a dark patch in the centre, but infertile eggs appear quite clear before the light. Infertiles should be removed as soon as discovered, as the gasses given off from them may harm the other good eggs if left in.

After the first week a little more time may be taken daily when turning the eggs and airing, but not more than 6 or 7 minutes. During the 3rd week 8 to 10 minutes may be allowed each time, but on the 18th day (for hen eggs) the eggs should be sprinkled with warm water at about 100 deg. all over, and quickly put back in the incubator whilst wet.

### AVOID VIBRATION.

Care must be taken not to shake or jolt the drawer of eggs when putting in or taking them out, or it may kill some of the germs in the eggs. Do not turn the eggs after the 19th day of incubation, but air and sprinkle them with hot water twice daily until the 21st day, or until the first one or two eggs begin to chip. Then on no account should the egg drawer be opened again until the whole hatch is over, and the chicks have been hatched 12 hours, but the temperature may be increased to 105 deg. during the hatch.

If there are two felts with the machine, the first one should be removed after the 8th day and the second one after the 14th day. The temperature should be frequently watched during the period of incubation, as weather changes and the embryo in the eggs alter the heat as time goes on.

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There is a tremendous lot which we do not understand, and the difference between the feeding specialist and the absolute novice is but relative. They both being ignorant of so very much.

Correct feeding is, of course, the most important factor in profitable poultry keeping. It matters little how well-bred and housed are the birds, for so long as they are not fed correctly, they are not going to be profitable. The food is the bird's raw material, which, assuming a healthy bird, will be converted into eggs or flesh as the case may be. Into which of these two things it is turned depends partly on the bird's type and breeding, and partly on the kind of foods fed.

Again and again it has been brought to my notice that beginners in poultry keeping are under the impression that any food will do; that if a protein food is high-priced the birds will get on very well without it. Success will never come until this outlook is changed, and a sound philosophy is adopted, which only allows the feeding of the best foods, the right foods, and plenty of them.

Since the object of this column is to help those among us who are at the very opening stage of poultry keeping, I am going to begin at the very beginning of the subject of poultry feeding, and if my readers can bear with me, we will go well into the subject in future articles.

### FOR EGG PRODUCTION.

We are chiefly concerned with the feeding of birds for egg production, since the feeding for flesh or fat is a comparatively simple, and can be dealt with *en route* through the articles.

Until comparatively recent times, poultry used to be fed upon nothing but grain. This could take the form of wheat, oats, barley or maize, but in every case the results were not as satisfactory as they should have been, while the general health of the birds was poor. A moment's consideration will show the reason for this. The grains are all rich in carbohydrates (starch), but poor in protein (meat foods), and very deficient in mineral matter. It soon became apparent that no matter what mixture of grains was fed, it was not possible to supply sufficient protein or minerals and so, obviously, it

*(See on next page).*

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12.

(*Continued from previous page*).

became necessary to feed mixtures of ground cereals to which a concentrated protein food had been added. That was the origin of feeding mash to birds, and except in the most unenlightened areas, it is general practice to feed a mixed mash to all poultry.

### Wet or Dry Mash?

Until quite recent years it was usual to feed this mash feed in a moist state, it having been mixed with water or skim-milk. Of late, however, dry mash has became much more generally used. In this system of feeding the mash is placed in troughs or hoppers in its dry state, and the birds are allowed to help themselves to it when they feel inclined. It is open to them all day, and should never be taken away.

For a number of years a furious controversy raged as to which was the better system, but the generally accepted opinion to-day is that there is little to choose between the two methods, so far as results are concerned. The dry mash system has the immense advantage of being labour-saving, there being no mash to mix up and take round to the birds every day. This mixing, and feeding of wet mash entailed a great amount of work, which is not necessary under the other system. As well as this, success with wet mash depends very largely upon the meal being mixed to the right consistency and to the feeding troughs being kept very clean. It will thus be obvious that wet mash feeding is not a system which can be left to any odd boy or man, but needs a reliable, intelligent feeder, if good results are to be obtained. For these reasons we advise the feeding of dry mash. With this system of feeding the following methods of management are usually followed:—

The dry mash is placed in open troughs, or dry mash hoppers, in the poultry house, and the birds are allowed to help themselves. The dry mash should never be taken from them, neither should the trough be allowed to become emptied. The following are the measurements of a dry mash hopper, which is efficient, cheap, and which can be made on the farm:—Length, 3 feet; Height, back 12 inches, front 7 inches; Breadth, 12 inches; the top having an opening of 3½ inches, which begins 1 inch, from the top of the front. This is large enough for 25 birds.

No grain need be fed in the morning, although it is still general practice to give a light feed of grain first thing, with the object of making the birds scratch and thus getting exercise in the early part of the morning. In actual practice we have found that this grain feed in the morning is un-necessary and as good or better results will be obtained if they do not have it. It is the poultry keeper's object to make his birds eat as much dry mash as he can. We will go into the reasons for this at a later date. When no grain feed is given in the morning, the birds get up feeling very hungry. The only available food is dry mash. They eat it with avidity. No doubt they would rather be eating grain, but since there is none, they eat the only food they can lay their beaks to. This has three results. It brings about a greater consumption of dry mash than would be the case if grain was given in the morning. It keeps them active for a considerable time eating mash and going to the water trough. With grain they take the edge off their appetites very much quicker than with dry mash, and this more prolonged activity keeps them occupied, and therefore, less likely to fall into vicious habits, such as feather-eating and vent-pecking. In the evening, an hour before dusk, the evening feed of grain is given. In the summer this is given in the litter, and the birds have to scratch for it. In the winter it is fed in troughs, similar to one of which the dimensions are given above, and the birds are allowed to eat as much as they like. The results in them going to their perches will full crops, the food in which helps to feed them during the long nights. As a grain feed we advise kibbled maize only as a winter feed, and in the summer 2 lbs. kibbled maize, 2 lbs., wheat, 1 lb. oats. Good results follow the feeding of kibbled maize as the only grain feed throughout the year. Barley can, to some extent, take the place of maize, but it is better not to let it form more than 50 per cent. of the grain mixture. This grain is difficult to digest, and is, therefore, not so valuable a poultry food as maize.

---

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*FROM THE EDITOR*

INDIAN POULTRY GAZETTE.

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WHITE LEGHORNS—300 egg Tancred strain.

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2

## UNIQUE EXPORT GUARANTEE.

As your late Secretary and Editor and exporter since leaving India our reputation for square dealing is well known. But in future will export utility poultry on approval *i.e.* if not approved on arrival, send to Calcutta, Rangoon or All India Show for auction and if purchase price not realised we will refund difference. George Howard.

2

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,

We wish to take this opportunity of replying to the letters which have appeared in your columns commencing with May 1930, and would crave your indulgence. We have purposely refrained from any expression of opinion, as realizing the importance of the point in dispute wished to hear club members candid and honest opinions, as our one desire is to *further* and not hinder, the cause of the poultry industry in India, and stimulate and not try to kill competition at our shows. If the Indian Poultry Club Committee can show us how the Etah Poultry Farm can accomplish those two things, we will gladly fall in with their decision and pull with and not against the club.

At the very beginning one word needs to be said. We entertain *no hard feelings* against the writers of these letters. As Sergeant Eatwell pointed out the columns of the Indian Poultry Gazette, can and should be, put to a legitimate use and a man is no man who can not face criticism. So believe me when we say we have no hurt feelings. The Etah Poultry Farm has proved itself and it is in this country to stay. It will still carry on, whether its birds are seen at our shows or not. Its purpose as has been shown, is to improve the stock in the villages, and it is to benefit the villager that it exists. It *has the goods* and will continue to breed them. The public can and will continue to get the *best* from us provided they pay for it. We have made a reputation that we intend to live up to, and we would thank all those who have expressed words of appreciation of our work for the villager.

Now to answer one or two points raised, the principal one being, that we receive birds free from America, and have an undue advantage. What are the facts. True we have in the past, and do still on ocassion get some topping birds free, but they are negligible as compared to what we pay for. We have at this time R. I. Reds, Minorcas and Leghorns For our breeding pens of Reds we paid in the United States of America when on furlough $50. (Rs. 136/-) each, for two males, and $35 (Rs. 97/-) each for five females, from a noted breeder and exhibitor. Crates and ocean freight from the United States of America to India *were extra*. Take our breeding pen of Minorcas. These were secured from England and paid landed in India Rs. 500/- for 2 males and six females, (*i.e.*, about Rs. 62/-) each. Only were our Utility White Leghorns given us free, a pen of 6 females and 3 males bred by the Poultry Department of Pennsylvania State College, which has specialized for years in pedigreed utility White Leghorns.

Mr. Wiggal objects to our asking Rs. 2/- per egg from the public, and states infertiles are not replaced, (our custom like that of many other breeders is to send 15 to the dozen and no replacements, and this is stated in our advertisement). This price is not too high considering what has been paid for our breeding stock, and every one is free to go to the breeder who asks Rs. 6/- and Rs. 9/- per dozen. Those who buy from us naturally do so, because they want to. His point is weak.

The picture he presents of our activities is of course a true one, and we are glad that we have done what we have for the depressed classes (India's down and outs). We want no misunderstanding on one point. Neither I personally, nor the Mission, have benefited by a single rupee, by our sales at the shows and throughout the year. It all goes back into the working of the farm and our work in the district. Now to come to the point. Shall Etah Mission birds be debarred from exhibiting? That matter is one for the club to decide. We cannot speak for Government farms—They must speak for themselves. If we do not exhibit, the exhibits will be reduced considerably in number. But after all that has been said, *i.e.*, that novices are disappointed and will not exhibit, we are perfectly prepared to accept no cups, but let them go to the runner up, getting only the honour of the win. Or we are willing to keep our birds out of the shows entirely, though I would like personally to attend and continue the happy friendship with club members, and enjoy a good dinner and congratulate the winners. To continue to show the public that *we have the goods*, we would perhaps put in a display exhibit, consisting of some breeding pens, *not for competition and to be auctioned at the show*. That would show what we have. Mr. Wiggall's suggestion that there

(*Continued to page 218*).

# ? ? ?

**Questions under this heading are answered free of charge on this page.**

**Letters should be addressed—BUFF ROCK,**
**C/o. The Hon. Editor, I. P. GAZETTE and marked "Query".**

**Where readers desire an individual reply they should enclose a stamped addressed envelope and a fee of As. -/8/- is charged.**

**Mr. H.** *Dinajpur.*—Glycerine in the water tends to fluff out the feathers and give the washed bird a better gloss. Linseed boiled in the wash will also do this but in your breed I do not advise it as it has a tendency to make the feathers 'sappy'.

**Mr. B.** *Fyzabad.*—I am afraid I cannot answer your question re: the manufacture of these two meals though the following will serve. *Fish Meal*: The offal and waste is sun-dried to a very dry condition then put through a grinder. Certain kinds of fish are injurious to poultry so be careful. *Bone Meal*: A way of making this is to subject the bones to an excessive heat till dry and brittle then they are put through a mill and made into a meal. Green bone is simply the raw bone once it has been seperated from the flesh, put into a crusher and made into a coarse meal and is the better way of the two as it contains vitimen properties in the meat destroyed in firing.

**Mrs. A.** *Calcutta.*—I think it would be better for you to write our Librarian for book No. 25 which will tell you all you wish to know re: the breed, as it would take me pages to write it here.

**Mr. R.** *Khulna Dist.*—I think you will get better results from a hot air machine when once you have learned how to run it. (2). A Hearson, Silver Hen or a Mendip are my suggestions to pick from. (3). When you finally decide you must write me and I will answer any question you are doubtful. (4). Slightly higher than that of the hen. (5). Any time now.

**Mr. T.** *Mulvipara.*—This sounds to me like Black rot. The cure is, Phenyle 1 part, Sulphur 4 parts, Turps 2 parts. Tallow or cocoanut oil enough to make a greasy mixture of the ointment. Heat the latter and stir the other items into it when hot and allow to cool. Apply with the fingers and rub in. Twice daily. Zam Buk is supposed to be very good but I have never tried it.

**Mrs. P.** *Naini Tal.*—This is a cruel way to put a hen off broodiness and should not be practiced. I advise keeping the bird in a small coop with a lattice floor so that she cannot sit, same to be raised about a foot from the floor to permit of an air passage under the hen. Keep her in sight of the other hens and feed sparingly on hard grain and plenty of water. Green food also must be given.

**Mr. G.** *G. Tea Estate.*—I think the poor result is due to your own fault though you may not think it. Eggs coming that distance should have been given at least 8 hours to allow the germ to settle and as you put them down within one hour of un-packing them this I think is the reason you had so many broken yolks. Infertiles would probably have gone the 21 days and not burst. Next time try keeping in a cool place for 12 hours after arrival then put down.

**Mr. J.** *Kidderpore.*—Different writers have different fads. Mine is to give the soft food at night. Reason: Birds have to go the whole night without being able to obtain a drink. With a crop full of wet mash they do not tax the digestive system so much as if they have a crop full of hard grain which calls for excessive juices to assist the digesting process. In the day they can obtain a drink when they feel like it which helps to soften the grain and help digestion.

**Mrs. F.** *Tangibari.*—You are not the first victim Mrs. F. I can only advise more caution next time and deal only with persons who advertise in the Club's Gazette as the Club can then help you to a certain extent.

**Mr. W.** *Calcutta.*—The trouble is over feeding. I think if you killed one of the birds you would find the intestines buried in rolls of rich yellow fat. Cut your present feeding right out. For the next month feed only on 2 ozs. per bird of hard grain per day, plenty of fresh water and greenfood. Make sure they take plenty of exercise, bury the grain and make them hunt for it and hang the greenstuff about 9 inches above them so that they have to jump for it. Write me again and when you have brought them down to flesh and muscle instead of fat I'll give you a layers feeding diet.

**Mr. T.**—Your question needs more explanation than I can give here and I will write you direct.

(*Continued from page 216*).

be a section for Government owned and Mission farm birds only, we consider futile, and would never consider exhibiting in such "closed" competition. We consider the sporting side would entirely disappear, and in practice there would be about two exhibitors in this section, the U. P. P. A., and the Etah Mission Farm. We would ask Mr. Wiggal as a good sport, and old breeder and exhibitor, how this would appeal to him, if he were in our place. In conclusion believe us as we sum up, and say. (1) We will abide by *whatever* the *majority* of club members, *or the club's committee* consider equitable and would like. (2) We have had our share of cups and do not wish to exclude others, or damp novices. (3) We are willing to compete in *open competition,* or to stay out, but we can not consider competing in *narrow closed competition.* Where would be the honour and joy in the win?

Mission Poultry Farm,

Etah, U. P. A. E. SLATER.


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